# ROSS, DIXON & BELL, LLP

550 West B Street, Suite 400 • San Diego, CA 92101-3599 • p (619) 235-4040 f (619) 231-8796

JASON S. HARTLEY
DIRECT DIAL: (619) 235-4040
EMAIL: IHARTLEY@RDBLAW.COM

SIXTY-DAY NOTICE OF INTENT TO SUE FOR VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (Cal Health & Saf. Code §§ 25249.5 et seq.) ("Proposition 65")

May 24, 2006

Kraft Foods Kraft Foods North America CEO Roger K. Deromedi 3 Lakes Drive Northfield, IL 60093

AND THE PUBLIC PROSECUTORS LISTED ON THE ATTACHED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Re: Consumer Product Exposure to Benzene

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter constitutes notice that Kraft Foods Inc. ("Kraft") has violated and continues to violate provisions of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.5 et seq. ("Proposition 65"). Specifically, this entity has violated and continues to violate the warning requirement of § 25249.6 of the California Health and Safety Code, which provides, "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual..." This notice satisfies a prerequisite for Melinda Ziesmer-Rodriguez to commence an action against Kraft in any Superior Court of California to enforce Proposition 65. The violations addressed by this notice have occurred, based on information and belief, in every county in California. Melinda Ziesmer-Rodriguez is serving this notice upon each person or entity responsible for the alleged violations, the California Attorney General, the district attorney for every county where the alleged violations occurred, and the City Attorney for every city with a population (according to the most recent decennial census) of over 750,000 persons located within counties where the alleged violations occurred.

By serving this notice, Melinda Ziesmer-Rodriguez is acting "in the public interest" pursuant to Proposition 65. Kraft may contact Melinda Ziesmer-Rodriguez, 6785 Annmar Dr.

San Diego, CA 92139, telephone number (619) 235-4040 through her attorneys, Jason Hartley, Esq., 550 West B St., Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92101, telephone number (619) 557-4331, and additional undersigned counsel.

Attached to this Notice is a copy of "The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary." This summary provides general information about Proposition 65.

For at least the past five years, and continuing to the present, Kraft and/or its predecessor entity or entities have caused consumer product exposure to the carcinogen benzene. Benzene was listed by the Governor of the State of California as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity and has been so listed for more than twelve months. Specifically, Kraft sells Crystal Light brand soft drinks, including Crystal Light Sunrise Classic Orange, which contain benzene, to retailers and consumers throughout California. Specifically, these products contain both Vitamin C and sodium benzoate, which has been known to the soft drink industry since at least 1990 to react in beverages to form benzene. The principal route of exposure to benzene is through ingestion of the product as a ready to consume beverage. The location of the alleged exposures are varied, occurring within the 58 counties of the state of California

Accordingly, Kraft, which has ten or more employees, has knowingly and intentionally exposed, and continues to expose, California consumers to concentrations of benzene that exceed safe harbor levels without first providing clear and reasonable warnings as required by Proposition 65. Kraft was and is required to provide clear and reasonable warnings to all consumers of Crystal Light Sunrise Classic Orange brand beverage stating that Crystal Light Sunrise Classic Orange contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer.

Pursuant to Health and Safety Code §25249.7(d)(1), the undersigned counsel hereby include the attached Certificate of Merit, which states that the undersigned counsel have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has or have reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of this notice, and that, based on that information, the undersigned counsel believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case. Factual information sufficient to establish the basis of this Certificate of Merit is included with the notice that is served on the Attorney General and is provided to that office in confidence and is not to be disclosed except according to law.

Through this notice, Melinda Ziesmer-Rodriguez provides Kraft and the appropriate government authorities notice of her intent to sue 60 days prior to the commencement of an action. In the absence of any action by the appropriate governmental authorities within 60 days of the sending of this notice, Melinda Ziesmer-Rodriguez may file suit.

# Sincerely,

Jason S. Hartley

ROSS, DIXON & BELL, LLP 550 West B Street, Suite 400 San Diego, CA 92101

Tel: (619) 235-4040

L. DeWayne Layfield LAW OFFICE OF L. DEWAYNE LAYFIELD P.O. Box 3829 Beaumont, TX 77704

Tel: (409) 832-1891

Howard Rubinstein LAW OFFICE OF HOWARD RUBINSTEIN 3407 Houston Avenue Houston, TX 77056

Kent Caperton SHARP & BARNES LLP 98 San Jacinto Boulevard Suite 250 Austin, TX 78701

Olen Kenneth Dodd THE DODD LAW FIRM P.O. Box 3504 Beaumont, Texas 77704 Tel: (409) 832-2589

cc:

Attachments

## **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

Health and Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

## I, Jason Hartley, hereby declare:

- 1. This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice(s) in which it is alleged the party(s) identified in the notice(s) has violated Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- 2. I am the attorney for the noticing party.
- 3. I have consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies, or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemical that is the subject of the action.
- 4. Based on the information obtained through those consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for the private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- 5. The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including the information identified in Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: May 21, 2006

Bv:

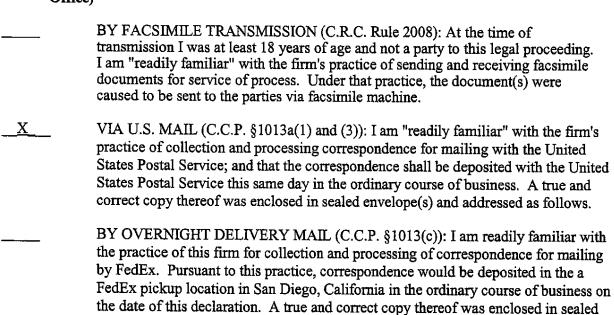
#### PROOF OF SERVICE

#### STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

I am employed in the County of San Diego, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 550 West B Street, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92101. On December 6, 2005, I served a copy of the following documents described as follows:

- NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 DATED 5/24/06 TO See Attached Distribution List FROM Jason Hartley, Esq.
- THE SAFE DRINKING WATER AND TOXIC ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1986 (PROPOSITION 65): A SUMMARY (only sent to alleged violators)
- CERTIFICATE OF MERIT (attachments only sent to California Attorney General's Office)



## SEE ATTACHED DISTRIBUTION LIST

envelope(s) and addressed as follows.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the above is true and correct. Executed on May 2006, at San Diego, California.

# **DISTRIBUTION LIST**

The Honorable Thomas Orloff	The Hon. William Richmond	The Honorable Todd Riebe
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
ALAMEDA COUNTY	ALPINE COUNTY	AMADOR COUNTY
1225 Fallon Street, Room 900	P.O. Box 248	708 Court Street, #202
Oakland, CA 94612	Markleeville, CA 96120	Jackson, CA 95642
The Honorable Michael Ramsey	The Honorable Jeffrey Tuttle	The Honorable John Poyner
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
BUTTE COUNTY	CALAVERAS COUNTY	COLUSA COUNTY
25 County Center Drive	891 Mountain Ranch Road	547 Market Street
Oroville, CA 95965	San Andreas, CA 95249	Colusa, CA 95932
The Honorable Robert Kochly	The Honorable Michael Riese	The Honorable Gary Lacy
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY	DEL NORTE COUNTY	HUMBOLDT COUNTY
PO Box 670	450 H Street	825 5 <sup>th</sup> Street
Martinez, CA 94553	Crescent City, CA 95531	Eureka, CA 95501
The Honorable Elizabeth Egan	The Hon. Robert Holzapfel	The Honorable Paul Gallegos
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
FRESNO COUNTY	GLENN COUNTY	HUMBOLDT COUNTY
2220 Tulare Street. #1000	P.O. Box 430	825 5 <sup>th</sup> Street
Fresno, CA 93721	Willow, CA 95988	Eureka, CA 95501
The Honorable Gilbert Otero	The Honorable Arthur Maillet	The Honorable Edward Jagels
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
IMPERIAL COUNTY	INYO COUNTY	KERN COUNTY
939 West Main Street	P.O. Drawer D	1215 Truxtun Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243	Independence, CA 93526	Bakersfield, CA 93301
The Honorable Ronald Calhoun	The Honorable Gerhard Luck	The Honorable Robert Burns
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
KINGS COUNTY	LAKE COUNTY	LASSEN COUNTY
1400 West Lacey Blvd.	255 N. Forbes Street	220 S. Lassen Street, Ste. 8
Hanford, CA 93230	Lakeport, CA 95453	Susanville, CA 96130
The Honorable Steve Cooley	The Honorable Ernest LiCalsi	The Honorable Edward Berberian
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	MADERA COUNTY	MARIN COUNTY
210 West Temple Street, Ste. 18000	209 West Yosemite Avenue	3501 Civic Center Drive, Rm. 130
Los Angeles, CA 90012	Madera, CA 93637	San Rafael, CA 94903

Th. II	Carl TT ST TT	
The Honorable Robert Brown	The Hon. Norman Vroman	The Honorable Gordon Spencer
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
MARIPOSA COUNTY	MENDOCINO COUNTY	MERCED COUNTY
P.O. BOX 730	P.O. Box 1000	2222 M Street
Mariposa, CA 95338	Ukiah, CA 95482	Merced, CA 95340
The Honorable Jordan Funk	The Hon. George Booth	The Honorable Dean Flippo
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
MODOC COUNTY	MONO COUNTY	MONTEREY COUNTY
204 S. Court Street	P.O. BOX 617	240 Church Street, #101
Alturas, CA 96101	Bridgeport, CA 93517	Salinas, CA 93901
The Honorable Gary Lieberstein	The Hon. Michael Ferguson	The Honorable Tony Rackauckas
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
NAPA COUNTY	NEVADA COUNTY	ORANGE COUNTY
931 Parkway Mall	201 Church Street, Suite 8	401 Civic Center Drive
Napa, CA 94559	Nevada City, CA 95959	Santa Ana, CA 92701
The Honorable Bradford Fenocchio	The Hon. Jeff Cunan	The Honorable Grover Trask II
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
PLACER COUNTY	PLUMAS COUNTY	RIVERSIDE COUNTY
11562 B Avenue	520 Main Street, Room 404	4075 Main Street
Auburn, CA 95603	Quincy, CA 95971	Riverside, CA 92501
The Honorable Jan Scully	The Hon. John Sarsfiled	The Honorable Michael Ramos
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SACRAMENTO COUNTY	SAN BENITO COUNTY	SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
901 G Street	419 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Second Floor	316 N. Mountain View Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95814	Hollister, CA 95023-3801	San Bernardino, CA 92415
The Honorable Bonnie Dumanis	The Hon. Kamal Harris	The Honorable James Willett
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SAN DIEGO COUNTY	SAN FRANCISCO	SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
330 W. Broadway, STE. 1320	COUNTY	P.O. BOX 990
San Diego, CA 92101	880 Bryant Street, Room 325	Stockton, CA 95201
	San Francisco, CA 94103	,
The Honorable Gerald She	The Hon. James Fox	The Hon. Thomas Sneddon, Jr.
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	SAN MATEO COUNTY	SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
County Govt. Center, 4 <sup>th</sup> FL Annex	400 County Center, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	1105 Santa Barbara Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	Redwood City, CA 94063	Santa Barbara, CA 93101
The Honorable George Kennedy	The Hon. Bob Lee	The Honorable Gerald Benito
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SANTA CLARA COUNTY	SANTA CRUZ COUNTY	SHASTA COUNTY
West Hedding Street, West Wing	701 Ocean Street, Room 200	1525 Court Street, Third Floor
San Jose, CA 95110	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	Redding, CA 96001-1632
,		10001-1002

The Honorable Lawrence Allen	The Hon. James Andrus	The Honorable David Paulson
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SIERRA COUNTY, Courthouse	SISKIYOU COUNTY	SOLANO COUNTY
P.O. BOX 457	P.O. BOX 986	675 Texas Street, Suite 4500
Downieville, CA 95936	Yreka, CA 96097	Fairfield, CA 94533
The Honorable Stephan Passalecqua	The Hon. James Brazelton	The Honorable Carl Adams
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
SONOMA COUNTY	STANISLAUS COUNTY	SUTTER COUNTY
600 Administration Drive	800 11 <sup>th</sup> Street, Room 200	446 Second Street
Room 2121	P.O. Box 442	Yuba City, CA 95991
Santa Rosa, CA 95403	Modesto, CA 95353	
The Honorable Gregg Cohen	The Hon. David Cross	The Honorable Phillip Cline
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
TEHAMA COUNTY	TRINITY COUNTY	TULARE COUNTY
423 No. Washington Street	P.O. BOX 1310	221 South Mooney Blvd., Ste
Sonora, CA 95370	Weaverville, CA 96093	224
		Visalia, CA 93921
The Hon. Donald Segerstrom, Jr.	The Hon. Gregory Totten	The Honorable David Henderson
District Attorney	District Attorney	District Attorney
TUOLUMNE COUNTY	VENTURA COUNTY	YOLO COUNTY
423 No. Washington Street	800 South Victora Avenue	301 Second Street
Sononra, CA 95370	Ventura, CA 93009	Woodland, CA 95695
The Honorable Patrick McGrath	The Hon. Rockard Delgadillo	The Honorable Michael Aquirre
District Attorney	City Attorney	City Attorney
YUBA COUNTY	CITY OF LOS ANGELES	CITY OF SAN DIEGO
215 Fifth Street	200 N. Main Street	1200 Third Avenue, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor
Marysville, CA 95901	Los Angeles, CA 90012	San Diego, CA 92101
The Honorable Dennis Herrera	The Hon. Richard Doyle	Attorney General of California
City Attorney	City Attorney	Prop. 65 Enforcement Reporting
CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO	CITY OF SAN JOSE	Attention: Prop. 65 Coordinator
City Hall, Room 234	151 W. Mission St.	1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000
San Francisco, CA 94102	San Jose, CA 95110	P.O. Box 70550
		Oakland, CA 94612-0550
Kraft Foods		
Kraft Foods North America		1
CEO Roger K. Deromedi		
3 Lakes Drive		
Northfield, IL 60093		